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 FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4558
 INFO RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 5549
 RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 3103
 RUDKGPQ/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1863
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3455

State Dept. review completed

EXDIS

STATE PLEASE PASS SECDEF WASHDC

FOR UNDER SECRETARY BUCKLEY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.: 12065: RDS-1 7/12/02 (WOODS, R. E.) OR-M
 TAGS: ENRG, OVIP, UK, NL, NO
 SUBJ: NORWEGIAN GAS PROSPECTS

REFS: (A) PARIS 23403; (B) OSLO 3322; (C) OSLO 3405 (NOTAL)
 (D) STATE 188780

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I APPRECIATE THE COMMENTS OF AMBASSADOR GALBRAITH (REF A) REGARDING POSSIBLE SCENARIOS FOR NORWEGIAN GAS DEVELOPMENTS. HE IS ABSOLUTELY ON TARGET WHEN HE STATES THAT TO SUCCEED, ANY PROJECT MUST TAKE COMMERCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL SENSE. OUR NORWEGIAN FRIENDS CERTAINLY AGREE ON THAT AS WELL.

3. WE HAVE NO BASIS TO JUDGE THE FEASIBILITY OF AMBASSADOR GALBRAITH'S SUGGESTION FOR AN EXPANSION OF DUTCH PRODUCTION IN RETURN FOR SPECIAL NORWEGIAN ARRANGEMENTS LATER. AS HE POINTS OUT, IT IS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE DUTCH WHO ARE THE KEY TO THE EQUATION. NEVERTHELESS, IF WASHINGTON AGREES THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S IDEA HAS MERIT, I RECOMMEND THAT IT BE EXPLORED WITH NORWEGIAN ENERGY STATE SECRETARY RAMM WHEN HE IS IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 16-17 -- WHETHER OR NOT WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO CONSULT BY THAT TIME WITH THE DUTCH. ALTERNATIVELY, SHOULD WASHINGTON PREFER, THE EMBASSY COULD EXPLORE THIS QUESTION INFORMALLY WITH THE GON IN OSLO.

4. ANY APPROACH TO RAMM SHOULD BE CAREFULLY STRUCTURED SO AS NOT TO BE MISINTERPRETED AS WASHINGTON PRESSURE -- WHICH WOULD CLEARLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. MOREOVER, RAMM SHOULD BE APPROACHED FROM AN ADMINISTRATION POSITION, AND EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT ALL WASHINGTON CONSTITUENCIES SPEAK WITH A SINGLE VOICE. ALSO WE RECOMMEND THAT EXCHANGE BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL AND WHATEVER POSSIBLE BE DONE TO AVOID PRESS LEAKS. AUSTAD
 END OF MESSAGE

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